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**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION DELEGATION LOBBIES
CONGRESS FOR GREATER FEDERAL COMMITMENT TO SOUTHERN
CALIFORNIA GOODS MOVEMENT IMPROVEMENTS**

WASHINGTON, D.C – A delegation of transportation leaders from the six counties that make up the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) region met with congressional representatives this week to advocate for a fair-share consideration in funding and related legislative actions for Southern California's goods movement infrastructure as part of SCAG's 2007 Consensus Program. California's public and private transportation leaders went to great lengths in 2006 to achieve voter approval of the \$3.1 billion infrastructure bond measures. With more than \$200 billion in national trade revenue passing through the ports, local leaders are turning to their federal counterparts to support Southern California as the nation's leading trade gateway region.

"Our region handles more than a third of the nation's freight traffic for movement by sea, air, land and rail," said Yvonne B. Burke, Los Angeles County supervisor and SCAG president. "Our federal counterparts must recognize the infrastructure demands of our overburdened goods movement system and the critical role they play in the nation's economy, not to mention our need to maintain a healthy environment for Southern California residents."

Delegates spoke with federal leaders to urge that they safeguard the guarantees provided for goods movement in SAFE-TEA LU to ensure a stable and reliable funding source for goods movement projects. In addition, delegates requested federal assistance in streamlining and fast-tracking the environmental review process for pending Southern California infrastructure projects.

"Federal legislative support for innovative financing such as public-private partnerships will be necessary to cover the funding shortfall still remaining even with the passage of the state infrastructure bond measure," said Gary Ovitt, San Bernardino County supervisor and SCAG 1st vice president.

The Southern California delegation advocated for a number of critical needs in its 2007 Consensus Program, including:

- Additional dedicated funding for large multi-state and regional goods movement projects
- Legislative authority for such financing measures as tax credit bonds, tax credit equity financing and an expansion of the federal Transportation Infrastructure Finance Innovation Act (TIFIA) loan program
- Matching funds for state bond monies to fund trade corridor projects
- Federal assistance to compensate for the region's disproportionate costs for the nation's goods movement services
- Regulatory and legislative actions to move forward environmental processes
- Reduction of pollutants from foreign-registry vehicles

- more -

In addition to Burke and Ovitt, the Southern California Consensus delegation was represented by:

- Hon. Harry Baldwin, San Gabriel mayor and SCAG regional councilmember
- Hon. Art Brown, Buena Park city councilmember; Orange County Transportation Authority board member
- Hon. Larry McCallon, Highland mayor pro tem, San Bernardino Associated Governments board member
- Hon. Jeff Stone, Riverside County supervisor, Riverside County Transportation Commission
- Hon. Ron Roberts, Temecula city councilmember, SCRRA/Metrolink executive board member
- Hon. Robin Lowe, Hemet city councilmember, Riverside County Transportation Commission
- Hon. Judy Dunlap, Inglewood city councilmember and SCAG regional councilmember
- Hon. Bonnie Lowenthal, Long Beach vice mayor, SCRRA/Metrolink executive board member
- Mark Pisano, SCAG executive director
- Sharon Neely, Alameda Corridor East Construction Authority
- Jim Preusch, Alameda Corridor Transportation Authority
- Chad Molnar, LAX Community Liaison, Los Angeles City Councilmember Bill Rosendahl

The group met with members of the Southern California congressional delegation, as well as the majority and minority staff members of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and other congressional leaders and their staff. The SCAG delegation also briefed a number of high-ranking officials at the Federal Highway Administration, Federal Aviation Administration and the U.S. Department of Transportation.

[EDITOR'S NOTE: For more information about the Southern California Consensus Program or to obtain a copy of the Consensus document, please call Jeff Lustgarten of Cerrell Associates at 323/466-3445]